

Rochester and Youngstown Fire Departments Receive Key Funding

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced two grants from the federal government totaling more than \$340,000 that will benefit Western New York fire companies. The Rochester Fire Department is set to receive over \$252,000 and the Youngstown Fire Department will be awarded \$91,756 for equipment and training activities.

The Rochester Fire Department is receiving over \$252,000 from the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. The program provides funding for fire departments and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

The Youngstown Fire Department is receiving \$91,756 from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program which assists fire departments in hiring additional firefighting personnel.

“Fire companies in my district and across the country have long battled funding cuts making it difficult for them to keep their communities safe,” said Slaughter. “These grants help to ease that burden at a time when many local governments around the country have had to cut back because of the economic downturn. As they know better than anyone, it is essential that they be fully staffed and have the necessary equipment to carry out their lifesaving work.”

“This Assistance to Firefighters Grant will allow the Rochester Fire Department to better protect both our firefighters and our community,” said Rochester Fire Chief John D. Caufield. “We will use the funding to purchase a self rescue rope system for firefighters who may become trapped while fighting fires and need to bail out of second story (or higher) windows. Another portion of the grant will be used to outfit two of our fire houses with emergency generators to keep the fire houses operational and the fire companies responding to emergencies during power outages. On behalf of the men and women of the Rochester Fire Department, and the City of Rochester, I would like to thank Congresswoman Louise Slaughter for her support and advocacy for this important grant.”

Since 2001, the AFG Program has provided approximately \$4.6 billion in grants to first-responder organizations to obtain much-needed emergency response equipment, personal protective equipment, firefighting and emergency vehicles, and training.

In fiscal year 2010, the SAFER program will award approximately \$420 million directly to fire departments and volunteer support groups to expand the number of firefighters available to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and all other hazards.